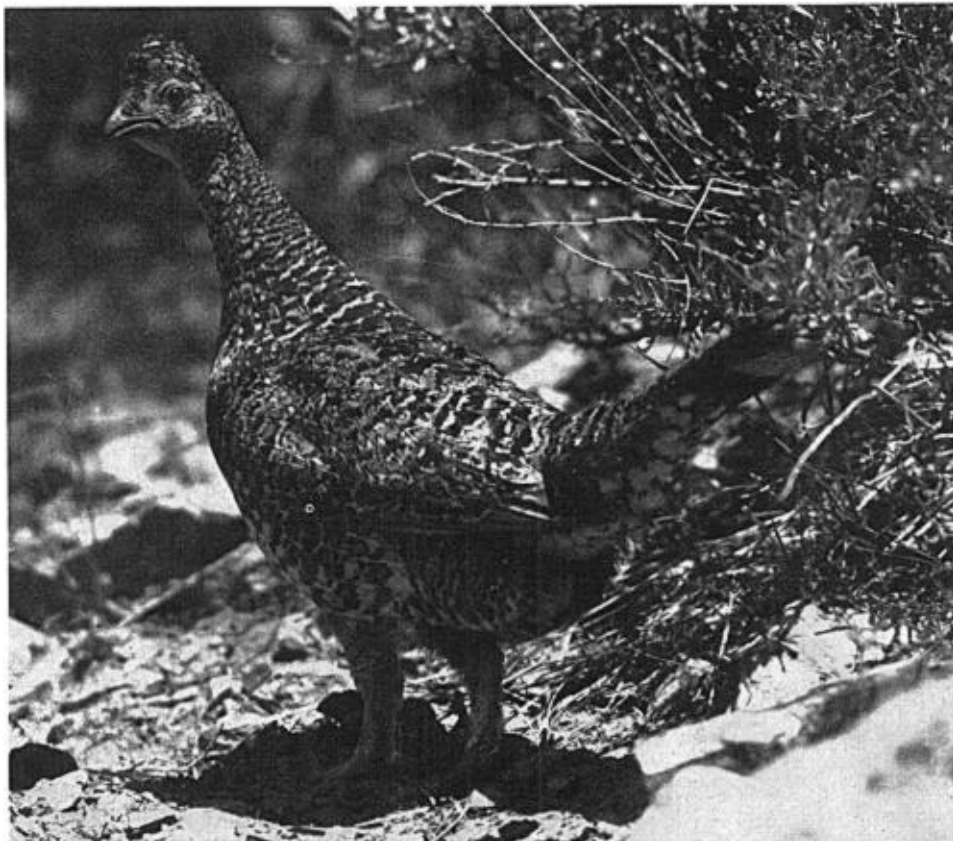


FROM FIELD AND STUDY



A female Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*) near sagebush (*Artemisia tridentata*).
Photograph taken on Rush Creek, south of Mono Lake, Mono County, California,
June 2, 1948, by Ed Harrison and Frances Roberts.

Notes on the Occurrence and Behavior of the Stilt Sandpiper on Vancouver Island.—
The Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*), though decidedly rare on Vancouver Island, may be a regular migrant along the inner shore-line in the late summer. Munro and Cowan (*A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia*, 1947:111) describe it as a "Scarce transient, more often seen in the interior than on the coast" and give no records for Vancouver Island.

During the past fifteen years I have observed the Stilt Sandpiper in the Comox district of Vancouver Island in the years 1937 (two individuals), 1942 (two), 1945 (four), 1947 (one), 1949 (one), and 1951 (one, on August 19). The occurrences were during the latter part of August or the first half of September, and the birds were in company with some or all of three other species, the Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) and Greater and Lesser yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus* and *T. flavipes*).

The Stilt Sandpiper is most likely to be confused with the Lesser Yellow-legs, as the birds are similar in appearance when flying or feeding on land and have similar calls. Closer examination shows that the Stilt Sandpiper, at least in early fall as here reported, has more brown color in the plumage, contrasting with the gray of the yellow-legs, and has conspicuous, light colored superciliary lines which often join across the forehead. The beak is noticeably shorter and blunter than that of the yellow-legs, but the slight thickening and downward curve near the tip are not very apparent in the